ABSTRACT

Methods of detecting executable code which has been altered are provided. Upon an initial loading of an executable code a calculation is performed to generate a score associated with the executable code, the initial score is retained. Subsequently, one or more additional calculations are performed on the executable code to generate subsequent scores. Any subsequent score not matching the initial score indicates the executable code has been altered in some way. If alteration has occurred, then the executable code is partially or completely disabled and optionally unloaded from the operating system within which it resides. Moreover, an owner associated with the altered executable code may be notified, or other events may be triggered as a result of scores which when compared are not equal. Calculations may be performed on the executable code randomly, at pre-defined intervals, or upon a specific request.

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